

In the claims:

For the Examiner's convenience, all pending claims are presented below with changes shown.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of dynamically discovering and configuring a new network device comprising:

registering the new network device with a lookup service, wherein the new network device includes software to automatically search for the lookup service within a specific network device domain and wherein the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service;

detecting the new network device by examining ~~periodically reading~~ the lookup service from an administration terminal;

~~responsive to the administration terminal detecting the new network device,~~ notifying a human operator of the presence of the new network device through a graphical user interface on the administration terminal;

responsive to the human operator selecting an option available on the graphical user interface, issuing a series of one or more generic Application Program Interface (API) calls representative of the option to the new network device, wherein said API calls cause execution of interface software preloaded on the new network device, the interface software containing [[s]] instructions specific to the new network device for implementing the API calls; and

executing the interface software ~~preloaded on the new device~~ to perform device specific tasks equivalent [[s]] to the series of the one or more generic API calls.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said interface stored on the new network device comprises a Java language program.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said options available on the graphical user interface comprise: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said device is a network attached storage device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said lookup service is the Jini lookup service.
6. (Currently Amended) A method of dynamically configuring a new network device comprising:
 - preloading the new network device with interface software wherein said interface provides instructions specific to the new network device for executing a set of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls;
 - registering the new device with a lookup service, wherein the new network device includes software to automatically search for the lookup service within a specific network device domain and wherein the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service;
 - and
 - responsive to receiving API calls, executing the interface software to perform device specific equivalents to the generic API calls.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said interface stored on the new network device comprises a Java language program.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said options available on the graphical user interface comprise: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.

9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said device is a network attached storage device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein said lookup service is the Jini lookup service.

11-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) A Storage Area Network (SAN) system comprising:

a network attached storage (NAS) device coupled with a network and preloaded with interface software providing instructions specific to the NAS device for executing a set of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls; and

an administration terminal coupled with said NAS device via the network and executing software generating a graphical user interface and sending to the NAS device a series of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls representative of options selected from the graphical user interface wherein said API calls are readable by the interface software of the NAS device;

wherein the NAS device registers with a lookup service in order to be identified by the administration terminal and includes software to automatically search for the lookup service

within a specific network device domain, the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service.

17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said interface stored on the NAS device comprises a Java language program.

18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein said options available on the graphical user interface comprise: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.

19. (Currently Amended) A network attached storage (NAS) device coupled with a network and preloaded with interface software providing instructions specific to the NAS device for executing a set of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls, wherein the NAS device registers with a lookup service in order to be identified by a terminal that generates the API calls, and wherein the NAS device includes software to automatically search for the lookup service within a specific network device domain, the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service.

20. (Original) The NAS device of claim 19, wherein said interface stored on the NAS device comprises a Java language program.

21. (Original) The NAS device of claim 19, wherein said API calls represent calls for executing commands including: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.

22. (Currently Amended) A terminal coupled with a network executing software generating a graphical user interface and sending to a NAS device a series of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls representative of options selected from the graphical user interface wherein said API calls are readable by an interface software the NAS, wherein the NAS device registers with a lookup service in order to be identified by the terminal and includes software to automatically search for the lookup service within a specific network device domain, the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service.

23. (Original) The terminal of claim 22, wherein said API calls represent calls for executing commands including: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.

24. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to dynamically discover and configure a new network device by: registering the new network device with a lookup service, wherein the new network device includes software to automatically search for the lookup service within a specific network device domain and wherein the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service;

detecting the new network device by examining periodically reading the lookup service from an administration terminal;

~~responsive to the administration terminal detecting the new network device,~~ notifying a human operator of the presence of the new network device through a graphical user interface on the administration terminal;

responsive to the human operator selecting options available on the graphical user interface, sending a series of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls representative of the option to the new network device, wherein said API calls are readable by interface software preloaded on the new network device, the interface software containing[[s]] instructions specific to the new network device for executing the API calls; and

executing the interface software ~~preloaded on the new device~~ to perform device specific tasks equivalent[[s]] to the generic API calls

25. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said interface stored on the new network device comprises a Java language program.

26. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said options available on the graphical user interface comprise: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.

27. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said device is a network attached storage device.

28. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 24, wherein said lookup service is the Jini lookup service.

29. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable medium having stored thereon data representing sequences of instructions, the sequences of instructions which, when executed by a processor, cause the processor to dynamically discover and configure a new network device by:

preloading the new network device with interface software wherein said interface provides instructions specific to the new network device for executing a set of generic Application Program Interface (API) calls;

registering the new device with a lookup service, wherein the new network device includes software to automatically search for the lookup service within a specific network device domain and wherein the lookup service to connect a client looking for a service with the service;
responsive to receiving API calls, executing the interface software to perform device specific equivalents to the generic API calls.

30. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said interface stored on the new network device comprises a Java language program.

31. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said options available on the graphical user interface comprise: create disk; create file system; delete disk; delete file system; and share file functions.

32. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said device is a network attached storage device.

33. (Original) The machine-readable medium of claim 29, wherein said lookup service is the Jini lookup service.

34-38. (Canceled)